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Chairman: Mr. Elji (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Syrian Arab Republic)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kuznetsov

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In the absence of Mr. Mackay (New Zealand), Mr. Elji (Syrian Arab Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 113: Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/59/L.2)

Draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.2

1. **Ms. Osode** (Liberia) said that her delegation wished to make a request for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter. Since Liberia had not paid its assessed contributions, it had lost the right to vote. The situation in Liberia, the result of a protracted conflict, had deteriorated further in recent years owing to the economic sanctions. The new Transitional Government was committed to doing everything possible to ensure the country's survival and to working with the financial institutions to which it owed money. It had drawn up a proposed repayment plan for assessed contributions owed to the United Nations and hoped that the plan would be acceptable, since it would enable Liberia to take its rightful place within the international community. In order to participate constructively in the work of the Organization, Liberia requested that its right to vote should be restored for the fifty-ninth session. Her delegation would provide the Committee on Contributions with the necessary information and would draw up a multi-year payment plan as soon as possible.

2. **Mr. Mazumdar** (India) said that Liberia's case was the most pressing of all. Given that the formal requests submitted by 10 other States, and the request recently submitted by Georgia, had been approved, Liberia's request should receive the same treatment. The United Nations had first-hand information about the situation in that country and could not refuse to grant the request.

3. **Mr. Stoffer** (United States of America) endorsed the statement made by the representative of India and strongly supported the request made by Liberia, a country that had been experiencing considerable difficulties. He welcomed the statement made by the representative of Liberia to the effect that her country would provide the Committee on Contributions with the necessary information and would draw up a multi-year payment plan. However, he regretted the fact that a representative of Liberia had not been present at the Committee's 2nd meeting.

4. **Mr. Ali Ahmad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statements made by the representatives of India and the United States of America. He observed that Liberia had experienced a bloody civil war and had been the subject of extremely rigorous sanctions. It was understandable that it was having difficulty paying its assessed contributions, particularly since it was now embarking on reconstruction.

5. **Mr. Abbas** (Pakistan), supported by **Ms. Goicochea** (Cuba), **Mr. Ramlal** (Trinidad and Tobago), **Mr. Al-Eryani** (Yemen), **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria) and **Ms. Baroudi** (Morocco), said that his delegation was in favour of granting an exemption to Liberia under Article 19.

6. **Mr. Zellenrath** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, recalled the statement he made at the Committee's 2nd meeting. He was deeply concerned that certain Member States did not respect the procedures or deadlines established by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/237 C. It was therefore impossible to treat all countries equitably. Member States themselves had made those rules and must respect them. Although he recognized that Liberia was in a difficult situation, he took the view that it could have made its request on time and through the official channels. Liberia must understand that, if it made another request for exemption under Article 19 in respect of the biennium 2004-2005, that request must be submitted in the appropriate manner to the Committee on Contributions by June 2005, at the latest.

7. **Mr. Iosifov** (Russian Federation), supported by **Mr. Iida** (Japan), **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh) and **Mr. Sun** Yudong (China), said that his delegation understood the problems facing Liberia and was well aware of the arduous task that it faced. It therefore hoped that Liberia's request would be granted, but drew attention to the fact that specific procedures had been established. In future, Liberia must follow those procedures and submit its request to the Committee on Contributions through the official channels.

8. **Mr. Wins** (Uruguay), supported by **Mr. Pulido León** (Venezuela), said that his delegation supported the requests made by Liberia and Georgia. In the absence of objections, he proposed that Liberia should

be included, along with Georgia, in the list of countries mentioned in draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.2.

9. **Mr. Al-Ansari** (Qatar) requested a brief suspension of the meeting so that his delegation could consult the members of the Group of 77 and China on the issue.

The meeting was suspended at 10.40 a.m. and resumed at 10.50 a.m.

10. **Mr. Al-Ansari** (Qatar) said that, after having consulted the members of the Group of 77 and China, he was in favour of granting the request made by Liberia.

11. **The Chairman** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to include Liberia in draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.2 and to revise the text accordingly.

12. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the revisions to the text of the draft resolution. In the fifth and sixth lines of the first preambular paragraph, the words "a statement by the Permanent Representative of Georgia[2]" should be replaced by the words "statements by the Permanent Representatives of Georgia[2] and Liberia[3]" and a third footnote should be inserted ("A/C.5/59/SR.4"). In paragraphs 5 and 6, the words "and Liberia" should be inserted after the word "Georgia". Lastly, in the first line of paragraph 7, the words "Georgia should be permitted" should be replaced by the words "Georgia and Liberia should be permitted".

13. **The Chairman** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.2/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **Ms. Osode** (Liberia) thanked the members of the Committee for having acceded to the late request for exemption submitted by her delegation and recalled that, at the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, Liberia had submitted a similar request to the Committee on Contributions through the official channels. It had been unable to do so in 2004 but assured the members of the Committee that, in 2005, it would provide the Committee on Contributions with the required information within the established deadlines.

16. **Mr. Adamia** (Georgia) expressed his delegation's gratitude to the members of the Committee for the understanding they had shown towards his country. The Government of Georgia was determined to honour all its commitments to the international community, in particular the United Nations. It would respect scrupulously the rules and procedures established by the Organization.

Agenda item 129: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (A/58/636; A/59/290 and A/59/384)

17. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that, over the following two weeks, the Committee would consider six reports of the Secretary-General, comprising four proposed budgets for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) and United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB)), one proposed budget for the period from 1 May 2004 to 30 June 2005 (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)) and one performance report for UNMISET for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/58/636), the consideration of which had been deferred from the fifty-eighth session pending the submission of the Mission's proposed budget for the period 2004/05. Three of the five proposed budgets related to peacekeeping missions established by the Security Council in the first half of 2004 (those for Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti) and the remaining two related to ongoing missions (those for Sierra Leone and East Timor) the mandates for which had been extended by the Security Council earlier in the year.

18. In June 2004, the General Assembly had approved commitment authorities for the period from 1 July to 30 October 2004 for ONUB and MINUSTAH in order to meet the initial requirements for their establishment and a commitment authority intended to meet the requirements of UNMISET beyond 30 June 2004. It had also approved an appropriation for UNOCI for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2004 and for UNAMSIL for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005. The budget proposals currently before the Committee reflected total additional requirements of $759.1 million for the period 2004/05. Taking into account the total resources (appropriations and commitment authorities) of $3.1 billion approved in June 2004, the revised total peacekeeping budget for

the period 2004/05 amounted to approximately $3.9 billion, an increase of 44 per cent as compared with the average of $2.7 billion for the periods 2002/03 and 2003/04. In the light of Security Council resolution 1565 (2004) concerning the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the total requirements for the period 2004/05 were expected to increase when the revised budget for MONUC was submitted to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General had instructed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and MONUC to review the tasks that could be performed by the Mission within the new ceiling, with a view to revising the scope of its military and civilian police concepts of operations outlined in his third special report (S/2004/650). Until that review was completed and the Division could produce a revised budget in early 2005, the Mission would use the current appropriation to implement its mandate.

19. Since the five budgets in question were being considered by the General Assembly outside the normal cycle for the review of peacekeeping operations, the proposed budgets for those Missions for the period 2005/06 would not be submitted until mid-March 2005. As far as MONUC was concerned, given that the Division was planning to submit the revised requirements for the period 2004/05 in time for the first part of the resumed fifty-ninth session, it was doubtful that the proposed budget for the period 2005/06 would be submitted in time for the second part of the resumed session in May 2005. Consequently, interim funding would be needed until a full budget could be submitted to the General Assembly during the main part of the sixtieth session. The Committee would be kept up to date on the situation with regard to MONUC and the Division would make every effort to submit the proposed budgets for all the Missions to the legislative bodies as soon as possible.

20. Turning to the performance report on the budget for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/58/636), she pointed out that the General Assembly, by its resolution 56/296 of 27 June 2002, had appropriated an amount of $292 million for the Mission. Expenditure had totalled $287.9 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $4.1 million, as a result of reductions in staff numbers and air transportation costs. The budget implementation rate had therefore been 98.6 per cent. Paragraph 23 of document A/58/636 contained the decisions which the General Assembly was being invited to take.

21. By its resolution 1543 (2004), the Security Council had extended the mandate of UNMISET for a period of six months, with a view to subsequently extending it for a further and final six months, until 20 May 2005. The General Assembly, by its resolution 58/260 B of 18 June 2004, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of $30.5 million for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2004, apportioned among the Member States. The proposed budget for the period 2004/05 was $85.3 million, 59 per cent ($123.5 million) lower than the amount appropriated for 2003/04 ($208.8 million), because of a reduction in the Mission's size and a revision of its mandate. Of that total, $77.2 million was for the maintenance of the Mission from 1 July 2004 to 20 May 2005. The balance of $8.1 million, for the period from 21 May to 30 June 2005, would make it possible for liquidation activities to begin. Paragraph 38 of document A/59/290 contained the decisions which the General Assembly was being invited to take.

22. **Mr. Kuznetsov** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (A/59/384), said that the Advisory Committee recommended an amount of $85,153,700, a reduction of $179,700 in the amount requested by the Secretary-General. The budget implementation rate for 2002/03 had been 98.6 per cent, but the Secretariat could do more to improve budget forecasting by taking better account of the latest available performance data rather than automatically applying standard costs. Additional measures must be taken to improve budget implementation and monitoring in view of the level of adjustments for the previous financial period.

23. With regard to the proposed budget for 2004/05, the Advisory Committee recommended, in paragraph 25 of its report, that the Mission, to the extent possible, should recruit National Officers and national General Service staff locally. It recommended acceptance of most of the staffing proposals; exceptions were indicated in paragraphs 28, 31 and 34 of its report. Its concerns regarding official travel were set out in

paragraph 37. It had expressed its expectation that the performance report would reflect savings attributable to the gradual reduction in, and disposal of, Mission assets (para. 40) and the reduction of premises and equipment rented by the Mission. Lastly, in paragraph 41, the Advisory Committee stressed the importance of inter-agency collaboration in national capacity-building in Timor-Leste.

24. **Mr. Elkhuizen** (the Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and, in addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, said that the European Union provided large numbers of peacekeeping staff, including troop contingents and civilian police, and was collectively the biggest contributor to the peacekeeping budgets. It intended to make sure that peacekeeping missions fulfilled their mandates as effectively as possible, and that they had appropriate financial resources. In that connection, results-based budgeting had proven useful in promoting efficiency and transparency. The European Union attached great importance to cross-cutting issues and was disappointed that the Committee had been unable to address them in May 2004 because it had run short of time and because the documents requested had not been available. It would return to those issues in the context of the budgets currently before the Committee. It was ready to discuss the revised budget for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) at short notice, in order to ensure an adequate level of funding for the Mission, but it urged that future budget proposals should be submitted far enough in advance.

25. The use of integrated mission templates to provide structures for new missions was welcome, but such templates must be used flexibly to reduce the potential for overstaffing, duplication of functions, unclear lines of reporting, grade-inflation of posts and fragmentation of functions, issues about which the Advisory Committee had warned the Secretariat.

26. The European Union agreed with the Advisory Committee's observations regarding UNMISET, and urged the Secretariat to make greater use of the results-based budgeting framework in order to make budget forecasts and indicators of achievement more accurate and avoid large cost overruns such as that for travel. It agreed with the Advisory Committee that national Professional and General Service grade staff should be recruited in order to facilitate local capacity-building and that the number and level of posts should be adjusted and downgraded overall to reflect the reduction in the size of the Mission.

27. **Mrs. Wahab** (Indonesia) said that her country had always supported the actions of UNMISET and she noted the measures taken to guarantee the autonomy of the Government of Timor-Leste and allow it to achieve its objectives. She stressed that the Mission must have adequate financing in order to complete its work in May 2005. Although she hoped to have clarification regarding some of the indicators of achievement referred to in the Secretary-General's report (A/59/290), her delegation approved the Advisory Committee's recommendations, in particular its recommendation that the Mission should seek to recruit staff locally as one of its major tasks was to increase national capacity-building.

28. **Mr. Iida** (Japan) said that it was essential to extend the Mission's mandate again in order to allow it to achieve a smooth transition between peacekeeping and development activities. He believed that the proposed budget was reasonable and would assist in achieving the goals set. His delegation approved the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 25 of its report (A/59/384) to the effect that the Mission should recruit National Officers and national General Service staff to build national capacity and urged the Secretary-General to implement them. Upon completion of its tour of duty, the Japanese contingent had left Timor-Leste and had donated to the Government any equipment that could be used in civil engineering, which would help to raise the living standards of the population.

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (A/59/288 and A/59/390)

29. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 May 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/59/288), said that, by its resolution 1542 (2004), the Security Council had established the Mission for an initial period of six months and that, by its resolution 58/311, the General Assembly had given the Secretary-General

commitment authority in the amount of $172.5 million to cover its expenses from 1 July to 31 October 2004. The proposed budget for the period from 1 May 2004 to 30 June 2005 amounted to $428.3 million, of which $49.5 million was allocated for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2005 and $379 million for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005. The budget provided for the phased deployment of military and civilian personnel (5,844 military contingent personnel, 1,622 police personnel (including 750 personnel in formed units), 482 international staff, 549 national staff and 153 United Nations Volunteers) and the replacement of equipment transferred from the strategic deployment stocks. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly were contained in paragraph 103 of the report.

30. **Mr. Kuznetsov** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed budget for MINUSTAH for the period from 1 May 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/59/390), said that the Advisory Committee had identified reductions totalling $9,312,400 million. However, it recommended the approval of the full amount requested by the Secretary-General in order to allow the Mission to deal with the consequences of hurricane Jeanne, and requested that the financial impact of the hurricane should be disclosed in the relevant performance report.

31. The report on MINUSTAH had given the Advisory Committee an opportunity to comment on the model structure proposed by the Secretary-General for medium-sized missions. The Advisory Committee had applied the comments and recommendations set out in paragraphs 17 to 27 of the report, as appropriate, in its budget proposals for the United Nations Operation in Burundi (UNOB) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and would follow the same procedures in the future if the General Assembly had no objection. It would therefore be desirable to consider the reports in relation to each other. The Advisory Committee had already taken the opportunity to express some of its concerns when examining a model structure first proposed for UNOCI, the United Nations Mission in Liberia and MONUC, concerns which it had raised again in paragraph 19 of the report on MINUSTAH since it had noted that the Secretariat had not taken all necessary measures to resolve the issues brought to its attention, in particular those concerning the need to avoid fragmentation and inflation of the grade structure and the establishment of clear lines of authority.

32. With specific regard to MINUSTAH, the Advisory Committee believed that, unless a clear case based on function and responsibility was made otherwise, the post of the Deputy Special Representative for humanitarian and development coordination should normally be established at the D-2 level (para. 22). It cautioned against replicating the functions of the Mission itself in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General or his Deputy (para. 23).

33. The Advisory Committee recommended that the staffing of MINUSTAH should be revisited in the light of the evaluation called for in paragraph 26 of its report. The recommendations concerning civilian posts (para. 27) derived from the Advisory Committee's position regarding the Mission's structure. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee noted delays in the deployment of contingents and recommended that the delayed deployment factor should be set at a more realistic rate of 15 per cent (para. 10) and requested that efforts should be made to reduce ration costs (para. 11). With regard to operational costs (paras. 28 to 33 of the report) the Advisory Committee expected, among other things, future savings in the amount budgeted for bottled water (para. 29) and it recommended that requests for information and communications technology and infrastructure should contain a time frame for completion of the projects and that the status of implementation of tasks undertaken should be reflected in the performance report (para. 32).

34. The Advisory Committee had no intention of singling out any particular mission or region for harsher treatment than others. It wished to remind delegations that it was important not to consider its reports in isolation, because the principles applied in drafting the MINUSTAH report were consistent with those applied to other missions and would continue to be used if the General Assembly so agreed.

35. **Mr. Elkhuizen** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia), and, in addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, said that the European Union endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee with regard to the proposed budget for MINUSTAH. It commended the Secretariat for its use of results-based budgeting but was concerned that a proliferation of small units might damage the Mission's effectiveness. In that connection, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General should not replicate the structures of the Mission itself. The European Union approved the Advisory Committee's recommendations with regard to the number of posts and recognized the need for the Special Representative to have staff at the appropriate level to fulfil the Mission's mandate. Finally, his delegation requested clarification regarding the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the full amount requested by the Secretary-General should be appropriated to allow the Mission to cope with the consequences of hurricane Jeanne.

36. **Mr. Renault** (Brazil), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, noted that it was important to the countries of Latin America that MINUSTAH should contribute effectively to the restoration of democratic institutions and the promotion of economic and social development in Haiti. The budget submission contained in document A/59/288 was justified by the scope of the Mission's mandate and should be approved. The Secretariat should redouble its efforts to ensure that MINUSTAH had the necessary infrastructure for the full deployment of its forces. Four months after undertaking its duties, the Mission had less than 40 per cent of the military component and less than 20 per cent of the civilian component provided for under Security Council resolution 1542 (2004). While the situation caused by hurricane Jeanne required exceptional measures, the proposed formula should not set a precedent for other missions.

37. **Mr. Ramlal** (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the countries of the Caribbean Community, welcomed the draft budget for MINUSTAH for the period from 1 May 2004 to 30 June 2005. The multidimensional structure of the Mission would undoubtedly facilitate the re-establishment of the rule of law and promote economic and social development in Haiti. He therefore urged the General Assembly to approve the amount requested by the Secretary-General, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, which had, in addition, drawn attention to the impact of hurricane Jeanne on the Mission's operations.

38. **Mr. Pulido León** (Venezuela) said that, in his view, MINUSTAH should be given the room for financial manoeuvre that it required to carry out its mandate and contribute to the re-establishment of democratic institutions and the promotion of development in Haiti. His Government had offered assistance to the Caribbean countries that had suffered from hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne. It had authorized the payment of $1 million to fund emergency humanitarian assistance for the people of Haiti and had chartered an aircraft to provide emergency aid.

39. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina) stressed the importance that his country attached to the fulfilment of the Mission's mandate. The peaceful settlement of disputes and the restoration of democracy in Haiti were priority political and humanitarian concerns for Latin America. A clear sign of the continent's concern was that, in August 2004, 90 per cent of the military and police forces deployed in Haiti had been from the countries of the region and were serving under Brazilian command. The Secretary-General's Special Representative was from Chile. Other States had also given bilateral humanitarian assistance to Haiti.

40. The Argentine contingent had been in a position to observe the urgency of the country's needs and the ravages caused by hurricane Jeanne, which had compelled MINUSTAH to broaden the scope of its activities. His delegation believed that the Mission should be provided with all the resources required to fulfil its mandate. It therefore invited the Committee to approve the budget submitted by the Secretary-General (A/59/288), bearing in mind the comments of the Advisory Committee (A/59/390). In his view, the Deputy Special Representative should be provided with adequate institutional support and a D-1 level post would be the most commensurate with his duties.

41. **Ms. Goicochea** (Cuba) requested that copies of the statements made by the Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division should be distributed to members of the Committee. She welcomed the fact that results-based budgeting had been used in the case of MINUSTAH but was concerned that some of the items contained in the table entitled "Component 1:

Secure and stable environment" (A/59/288) seemed to bear no relation to the provisions of Security Council resolution 1542 (2004). Whereas the resolution made no mention of intervention, the term appeared in the entry for indicator of achievement 1.1.1. Four towns were mentioned in indicator of achievement 1.3.4 without any reference to outputs. On the other hand, external factors seemed directly relevant to expected accomplishment 1.4 and should, therefore, be the subject of a separate table. Expected accomplishment 2.3 in Component 2 included the concept of "credible elections"; that involved a value judgement and did not appear in the mandate established by the Security Council in section II (c) of the resolution.

42. With regard to paragraph 49 and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee, her delegation considered that the duties of the Deputy Special Representative, who, as well as coordinating humanitarian assistance and development activities, had also been given responsibility for acting as Resident Coordinator, were crucial. She recalled that, under paragraph 13 of Security Council resolution 1542 (2004), the activities of United Nations bodies should contribute to the fulfilment of the Mission's mandate and she hoped that the objective of long-term development would be taken into account.

43. In paragraph 6 of the Spanish text of the Advisory Committee's report (A/59/390), the phrase "*indicadores de progreso*" would be preferable to "*indicadores del desempeño*". The paragraph containing the Committee's conclusions should be numbered 36 and not 35.

44. As for the structure of MINUSTAH, which was discussed in paragraph 17 of the Advisory Committee's report, her delegation wondered whether the same approach had been applied to other missions. Paragraph 22 stated that the level of the Deputy Special Representative should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Her delegation would like to know why the Advisory Committee had recommended a D-2 post in the case of Haiti.

45. **Mr. Cazeau** (Haiti) thanked the international community for the solidarity shown towards his country and expressed his gratitude to all those who had studied the documents on the proposed budget for MINUSTAH. He urged MINUSTAH to ensure that the resources placed at its disposal were used in a rational and efficient manner that would allow for action in exceptional circumstances. He noted that MINUSTAH had incurred unforeseen expenses as a result of hurricane Jeanne, which had caused such terrible loss of human life and substantial physical damage. He underlined the need to recruit local personnel in the interest of Haiti's social and economic development, stability and peace. He reaffirmed his country's commitment to the objectives of transparency and efficiency.

46. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa) welcomed the fact that the budget proposal for MINUSTAH, in the amount of $379 million, inclusive of the commitment authority already granted, had been tailored to meet the wide scope of tasks assigned to the Mission and said that the General Assembly had a responsibility to adopt it. She hoped that the Advisory Committee would provide a detailed explanation of its recommended adjustments to the staffing structure and in that connection she took note of the comments made by the representative of Argentina. She also hoped that the Secretariat would provide a similarly detailed explanation of the potential impact of the proposed reductions.

47. She emphasized that peacekeeping budget submissions should be considered on the basis of the financial justifications which they contained and with full recognition of the specificities and complexities of individual missions, their mandates and the unique environment in which they functioned. It was against that background that her delegation would consider the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for adjustments to the staffing establishment of MINUSTAH. She noted the references made in paragraphs 19 and 21 to 24 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/59/390) to the multidimensional structure of MINUSTAH, its apparent commonalities with other peacekeeping operations and the broad model applied by the Secretariat to similar missions. It was imperative, however, to apply that model in a flexible manner in order to reflect the specificities of each mission. In addition, the staffing establishment should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

48. Her delegation appreciated the integrated approach to peacekeeping; peace and development were indissolubly linked to the lasting settlement of conflicts, as in the case of Haiti, where the numerous interrelated problems required an integrated response. The appointment of a Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for humanitarian and development coordination would enhance coordination

between the Mission and the other stakeholders concerned. It should be noted that, in addition to acting as the Resident Coordinator, the appointee to that post would oversee the work of substantive components dealing with child protection, gender and HIV/AIDS programmes. The post was political in nature and it was important that the incumbent should have access to stakeholders at the appropriate level. The appointment should therefore be made at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

49. **Mr. Iida** (Japan) said that his delegation endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee concerning the structure of MINUSTAH. Since it was essential to develop the country's capacities, he requested details of the proposed means of collaboration between the Mission and such United Nations organizations as UNDP. In that connection, he believed that it was important to make greater use of national staff and supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 16 of its report. He noted that the international civilian component was relatively more substantial than that in other missions and that fewer staff within that category were nationally recruited. He asked the Secretariat to explain why that was. While his delegation appreciated the serious difficulties created by hurricane Jeanne in Haiti, it felt that the recommendation contained in paragraph 36 of the Advisory Committee's report raised a number of technical questions.

50. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria) endorsed the request of the representative of Cuba that the statements by the Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division should be circulated to delegations, together with those of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. She also shared the view of the South African representative that it was important to take into account the conditions specific to each mission such as the disastrous consequences of hurricane Jeanne. As recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 26 of its report, there was a need for flexibility in the model structure being applied to missions since decisions were to be made on a case-by-case basis.

51. **Mr. Kuznetsov** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the model structures to which the Advisory Committee referred in its reports on MINUSTAH, ONUB and UNOCI had been produced by the Secretariat and had already been considered by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee in May 2004. The Committee congratulated the Secretariat on its attempt to standardize the structure of the three missions, all of them integrated and of average size (their budget was in the order of $350 million). However, the proposed structure gave rise to problems which, in the case of MINUSTAH, were discussed by the Committee in paragraphs 17 and 26 of its report.

52. In response to the concerns expressed by the Cuban delegation, he confirmed that the Committee always applied the same principles when assessing proposals concerning the structure of missions. To demonstrate the point, it was sufficient to refer to the comments contained in its reports on the financing of the missions in question.

53. As to the reasons why the Advisory Committee was recommending establishment of the post of Deputy Special Representative responsible for humanitarian and development coordination at the D-2 level, it had referred back to the May discussion of the draft budget of UNOCI. The information given in the budget proposals on the nature and scope of the component in question and on its staffing and structure did not justify establishing the post of Deputy Special Representative at the Assistant Secretary-General level. Moreover, the modalities of the financing of the post were not clear. During the consideration of the UNOCI budget in May the Secretariat had indicated that the occupant of the post, at the D-2 level, would be made available to the Mission by UNDP and that only the difference between D-2 and Assistant Secretary-General remuneration would be charged to the Mission. According to the proposals under consideration, MINUSTAH would be responsible for the total remuneration of the staff member concerned. The proposals also prompted the question of the staff member's terms of employment. The Advisory Committee therefore needed clarification before it considered the proposal on the post in detail.

54. The Advisory Committee had noted inconsistencies in the model structure. In the case of MINUSTAH, for example, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities were the responsibility of the Deputy Special Representative for humanitarian and development coordination, while in other missions they were in the hands of the Principal Deputy Special Representative. The same was true of human rights activities. The Advisory Committee was therefore awaiting clarification from the Secretariat on that subject. Furthermore, the United Nations funds

and programmes should be consulted about the grade level to be assigned to the Deputy Special Representative, for his success would depend largely on their contributions to the work.

55. Replying to the representative of Japan, he said that at the time of the consideration of the budget proposals for MINUSTAH the amount of damage suffered by the Mission itself as a result of hurricane Jeanne had not yet been evaluated. But it was known that the Mission's infrastructure, transmitting system and the facilities for housing the contingents had been damaged. In addition, the contingents had drawn rations and water from their own stocks to help the local people. That exceptional situation would inevitably entail an increase in the financing requirements, but the Secretary-General did not intend to request additional resources at the present stage. The Advisory Committee had initially thought that the proposed envelope could be reduced by $9.3 million, including about $2 million under the heading of rations, but in the light of events it had judged it desirable to leave the Mission some room for manoeuvre with regard to that amount, it being understood that the Mission would have to account for its use in the budget performance report. It was not a question of financing the provision of humanitarian assistance but of making good the damage suffered by the Mission.

56. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that delegations' questions would be answered during the informal consultations, after the Secretariat had raised them with the relevant divisions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

57. **Mr. Wins** (Uruguay), referring to the comment of the representative of Brazil on the recommendation contained in paragraph 10, said that the delays in the deployment of the contingents provided by Uruguay and by Argentina, Brazil and Chile were due to the inadequacy of the Mission's infrastructure, which had been further aggravated by the hurricane. It was thus essential to give the Mission sufficient financial resources to equip itself with the necessary infrastructure.

58. **Ms. Goicochea** (Cuba) said that, by way of exception, her delegation would accept that the Secretariat should reply to delegations' questions during the informal consultations but in future it would insist on answers being given during a formal meeting in order that, like the questions, they could be included in the summary records.

59. **Mr. Simancas** (Mexico) said that his delegation agreed with the Cuban delegation that the Secretariat should answer questions during formal meetings. With regard to the aftermath of hurricane Jeanne, it was to be hoped that the Secretariat would take account of the urgent appeal which had been launched for funding for humanitarian assistance for Haiti, the aim being to mobilize all the necessary resources without any duplication or overlapping.

60. **Mr. Pulido León** (Venezuela) said that his delegation shared the concerns which had prompted the Advisory Committee to propose leaving the Mission some room to manoeuvre. However, the Fifth Committee should comply with the procedures which it had established. It was difficult to allocate funds to the Secretariat without having received all the necessary supporting information. It would in fact be wrong to establish a regrettable precedent. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee might perhaps be able to propose an acceptable technical solution during the informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 11 October 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Samayoa-Recari (Vice-Chairman) .....(Guatemala)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kuznetsov

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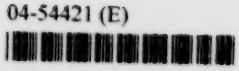

In the absence of Mr. MacKay (New Zealand), Ms. Samayoa-Recari (Guatemala), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 108: Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/58/886; A/59/411 and Corr.1)

1. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/58/886), recalled that the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission had been established to implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the border dispute between the two countries. The United Nations was providing assistance to the Mixed Commission in carrying out that task. Having considered the proposed resource requirements for United Nations support to the Mixed Commission for the seven-month period from 1 June to 31 December 2004, as set out in document A/C.5/58/20/Add.1, the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/294, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of $6 million and had requested him to submit a comprehensive financial report by the end of its fifty-eighth session. The report before the Committee contained the revised requirements under the regular budget for the seven-month period and information on those elements of the Mixed Commission's mandate that were or would be funded from sources other than the regular budget.

2. The Secretary-General had initially sought an amount of $6.9 million for United Nations support to the Mixed Commission, whereas the revised requirements amounted to $5.4 million. The decrease in requirements reflected the actual pace of activities on the ground and reduced expenditures for civilian observers. Nearly $8.3 million in extrabudgetary resources had been pledged or contributed. In addition, the Governments of Italy, Norway and Senegal were providing in-kind support. While no specific pledges had been received with respect to joint projects, the World Bank and the African Development Bank had indicated their interest in supporting such activities. The action requested of the General Assembly was set out in part V of the report.

3. **Mr. Kuznetsov** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/59/411 and Corr.1), said that background information was provided in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the report, while details of the revised requirements were contained in paragraphs 7 to 13. He recalled that neither the Advisory Committee, nor the Fifth Committee, had had sufficient time to consider the proposed resource requirements submitted in May 2004. Accordingly, it had been decided to grant commitment authority instead of charging the expenses against the existing appropriation under section 3 (Political affairs) of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

4. Subsequent to its consideration of the Secretary-General's initial request, the Advisory Committee had received additional information on staffing requirements. However, it had been constrained in its consideration of the report on the revised requirements (A/58/886) by the fact that 13 international staff positions had already been filled, another two were under active recruitment and all local staff were on board. The Advisory Committee had effectively been presented with a fait accompli. Although it had no objection to the staffing for the Mixed Commission, it did expect that any future presentation for a special political mission would, in the first instance, contain detailed information and justification for the proposals, both post and non-post, in the same manner as the presentations for peacekeeping missions.

5. In paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of its report, the Advisory Committee made a number of recommendations for potential savings, which should be reflected in the first performance report for the biennium 2004-2005. In paragraph 14, it recommended that the General Assembly should approve the revised requirements for United Nations support to the Mixed Commission for the period from 1 June to 31 December 2004. In order to ensure consistency of treatment, the amount approved should be charged against the unallocated balance of the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3

of the programme budget. He noted that there appeared to be a technical error in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report, in which a different course of action was indicated; the error had been reproduced in the Advisory Committee's report.

6. **Mr. Al-Ansari** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group strongly supported the Secretary-General's request to appropriate the reduced commitment of $5.4 million under section 3 of the programme budget in the context of the action to be taken on the first performance report. It wished to commend those countries that had made voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the financing of the boundary demarcation process, including Cameroon and Nigeria, which had given $3 million each, and to urge donor countries to contribute to the Trust Fund.

7. **Mr. Elkhuizen** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and, in addition, Iceland, said that the European Union recognized the importance of the Mixed Commission's work and its contribution to conflict prevention and to the peaceful settlement of disputes. When the Committee had considered the proposed resource requirements for United Nations support to the Mixed Commission in May 2004, delegations had posed a number of questions concerning the staffing requirements and the level and functions of the posts concerned; the requirements for consultants and experts; possible savings under transportation and air operations; participation by regional bodies and cooperation from United Nations offices; and the plans for obtaining voluntary contributions. The report before the Committee (A/58/886) contained the revised requirements for the period from 1 June to 31 December 2004 and information on the voluntary contributions and pledges received as of 31 August 2004. Additional information on staffing requirements had been shared with delegations at the second part of the resumed fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly. However, not all of the questions raised had been answered. The European Union would seek further clarification in informal consultations.

8. The European Union was ready to approve the revised requirements, but it concurred with the Advisory Committee that costs should be closely monitored. Any savings identified should be reflected in the first performance report. It trusted that the temporary setback in the third and final phase of withdrawals and transfers of authority in the Bakassi peninsula would not lead to further delays in the implementation of the Mixed Commission's mandate and invited all parties to comply with the agreed time frame. Lastly, noting that the requirements for United Nations support to the Mixed Commission for 2005 were to be included in the consolidated report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, to be submitted by 31 December 2004, he expressed the hope that the Committee's comments would be given due consideration in the preparation of that document.

9. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the Group wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It noted with satisfaction that the revised requirements for United Nations support to the Mixed Commission represented a reduction of $580,700 compared with the amount of the commitment authority, the result of efficient management. It also welcomed the prompt deployment of the necessary staff. It supported the Secretary-General's request to appropriate the amount of $5.4 million under section 3 of the programme budget and endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraph 14 of the report of ACABQ. It commended those countries that had made voluntary contributions in cash or in kind. However, it noted that, while more than $8 million had been received, a further $4 million was needed to fund the boundary demarcation activities, which were estimated to cost approximately $12 million. It wished to appeal for voluntary contributions to support those activities and to fund joint projects and other confidence-building measures.

10. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica) said that her delegation had taken note of the Advisory Committee's observation that presentations for special political missions must contain detailed information and justification for the proposals. It supported the appropriation of the revised amount of $5.4 million requested for United Nations support to the Cameroon-

Nigeria Mixed Commission. It noted with satisfaction that the two countries had taken ownership of the process, as demonstrated by the specific financial commitments they had made. It also wished to commend those countries that had made voluntary contributions in cash and in kind. Notwithstanding the delays in the final phase of withdrawals and transfers of authority, significant progress had been achieved. Her delegation welcomed the pledge by the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon to maintain the spirit of cooperation and friendship that had characterized the work of the Mixed Commission. That process should be encouraged and supported.

11. **Mr. Ekorong à Dong** (Cameroon) said that his delegation supported the appropriation of the requested amount, which, it trusted, would be sufficient to ensure the effective functioning of the Mixed Commission. As the Secretary-General had stated in his report on the work of the Organization (A/59/1, para. 29), significant progress had been achieved by Cameroon and Nigeria, with the assistance of the United Nations, in the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the land and maritime boundary between the two countries. The withdrawal of the civilian administration, military and police forces by each of the two States from areas falling within the sovereignty of the other and the corresponding transfer of authority, as called for by the Court, would enhance cooperation between Cameroon and Nigeria. The official visit by the Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to Cameroon had demonstrated the two countries' determination to continue to strengthen their bilateral relations through peaceful cooperation and dialogue. The process initiated by the Commission was unique in Africa and was already bearing fruit. He therefore wished to urge the entire international community to encourage and support it so as to bring it to a successful conclusion.

12. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) recalled that, in his previous report on the matter (A/C.5/58/20/Add.1), the Secretary-General had stated that the work of the Mixed Commission was gaining momentum. However, according to the report now before the Committee (A/58/886), the proposed resource requirements for United Nations support to the Mixed Commission for the period 1 June to 31 December 2004 had been revised downwards because the pace of activities on the ground had been slower than expected. He asked whether the initial momentum had indeed slowed and, if that was the case, whether the Mixed Commission would be able to complete its work by the end of 2005. He also wished to know why the estimated cost of deploying 32 civilian observers had been reduced from $2.8 million to $1.2 million. If the saving was attributable to a reduction in the level of their fees, as was stated in the report of ACABQ (A/59/411, para. 7), that information should have been included in the Secretary-General's report. Noting that the initial phase of United Nations support to the Mixed Commission had been funded from sources other than the regular budget, he enquired how much had been spent and how many staff had been employed during that phase. Lastly, he would welcome additional information on the duration of the boundary demarcation exercise and the status of the Working Group on the maritime boundary.

13. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the decrease of $580,700 in the estimated requirements had been mostly due to the reduction in the fees of the 32 civilian observers. While the report of ACABQ had gone into greater detail on that point, the information contained therein had been provided by the Secretariat. In addition, the difference between the amount of the commitment authority approved in June 2004 and the level of resources requested in the report before the Committee (A/58/886) reflected the difficulty of predicting the actual cost of new activities. It did not imply a change in the scope of United Nations support to the Mixed Commission. He would respond to the other points raised in informal consultations.

Other matters

14. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) read out a note from the Chief of the Interpretation Service, which had been approved by the Director of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division. The note reminded delegations that, in order for the interpreters to meet their expectations, all statements should be made at a pace that allowed the statement to be clearly understood and that any text that was going to be read in the meeting room should be provided to the interpreters before it was presented.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.